

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent No. 10/042,390

Attorney docket No. Q68033

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have amended FIG. 7 to change the bubble labeled “s” to a bubble labeled “f.”

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been examined. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 2, 9, and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Preliminary matters

A. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 7 because it contains a typographical error.

Applicants submit that the amendments to Fig. 7 overcome the objection.

B. Objection to claim 7

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 because it is a substantial duplicate of claim 6.

Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 7 overcome the objection.

C. Amendment to claim 19

Applicants have amended claim 19 to correct a typographical error. Clearly, this amendment does not change the scope of the claim.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,169,725 to Gibbs et al. (“Gibbs”)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gibbs. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the reference.

A. Claim 1

For example, in claim 1, a plurality of information transmitters/receivers are connected to nodes on a bus. The Examiner contends that Fig. 1 of Gibbs shows a HAVI network 10a that

includes various devices 12-24 and 301 that respectively have a plurality of transmitters/receivers connected to nodes on a bus 30.

Claim 1 also states that a connection restoration control device restores each connection at each node when each established connection is reset. Furthermore, the connection restoration control device controls an execution order of a plurality of connection restorations, divides each connection restoration into a plurality of processes, and selectively executes a predetermined process based on a status of the connection restoration.

The Examiner contends that Fig. 8 and columns 11 to 14 of Gibbs suggest the claimed connection restoration control device and its operation. Specifically, the Examiner contends that such portion of the reference teaches controlling an execution order of connection restorations following a network reset with different processes being performed based on DCM labels, which indicate the status of each connection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is misinterpreting and/or misapplying the teachings of the reference. Specifically, Gibbs discloses two types of connections: an “internal connection” and an “external connection.” The internal connection involves connecting two plugs from functional components belonging to the same device. (Column 12, lines 15-17; column 10, lines 60-61; and Fig. 7). The external connection involves attaching a functional component plug to a device plug. (Column 12, lines 17-18). In other words, an external connection corresponds to a connection with a node.

The disclosure of Fig. 8 and columns 11 to 14 of Gibbs, on which the Examiner relies to show the operation of the claimed connection restoration control device, relates to internal connections of a single device. However, in claim 1, the connection restoration control device

restores connections at nodes, and these types of connections correspond to the external connections in Gibbs. As such, the disclosure regarding Gibbs's internal connections do not suggest the claimed operation of the connection restoration device relating to external connections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

B. Claims 3 and 4

Since claims 3 and 4 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 8

Since claim 8 contains features that are analogous to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable for analogous reasons.

D. Claim 10

Since claim 10 depends upon claim 8, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

E. Claim 13

Since claim 13 contains features that are analogous to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 13 is patentable for analogous reasons.

F. Claims 15, 16, and 19

Since claims 15, 16, and 19 depend upon claim 13, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gibbs and U.S.P. 6,160,796 to Zou ("Zou")

Claims 5, 11, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbs in view of Zou. Since claims 5, 11, and 17 depend on claim 1, 8, or 13, and since

Zou does not cure the deficient teachings of Gibbs with respect to claims 1, 8, and 13, Applicants submit that claims 5, 11, and 17 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gibbs, Zou, and U.S.P. 6,885,631 to Kim et al. (“Kim”)

Claims 6, 7, 12, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbs and Zou as applied to claims 5, 11, and 17, and further in view of Kim. Since claims 6, 7, 12, and 18 depend on claim 1, 8, or 13, and since Zou and Kim do not cure the deficient teachings of Gibbs with respect to claims 1, 8, and 13, Applicants submit that claims 6, 7, 12, and 18 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

V. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 9, and 14 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 1, 8, or 13, but indicates that they would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form. Since the rejection of the base claims have been overcome, Applicants submit that the objection has likewise been overcome.

VI. Conclusion

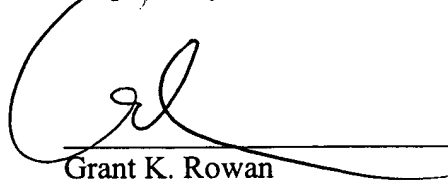
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GR', is written over a horizontal line.

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